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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,436	04/02/2001	Richard C. Gowen	051207-1080	1807

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GREENVILLE, SC 29601

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/825,436

Applicant(s)

GOWEN ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this office action. Claims 1-20 are present for examination. This office action is in response to the filing dated 04/02/01.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The references cited in the IDS, PTO-1449, Paper No. 3, have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern (US 61611074) in view of Singer (US 6178418B1).

With respect to claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, Stern discloses means for acquiring system data, (col. 18, lines 59-61); means for transforming the system data into searchable data, (col. 18, lines 63-65).

Stern discloses the information component management system of the present invention is not limited to simple storage, searches and retrieval of textual data only, but instead preserves all aspects of the original source of information, (col. 8, lines 35-39). However, Stern does not explicitly disclose ***providing queries on the searchable***

data. Singer teaches in FIG. 5, at 50, a query is generated by a client PC application and passed at 52 through a client connection driver and forward to a query server, (col. 8, lines 6-8) as step of **providing queries on the searchable data.** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stern by including providing queries on the searchable data as taught by Singer so query requests are steered or routed to a particular database, data warehouse, or data mart, wherein the data required is located, (col. 2, lines 35-37).

As to claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, Stern discloses the information component management system of the present invention is not limited to simple storage, searches and retrieval of textual data only, but instead preserves all aspects of the original source of information, (col. 8, lines 35-39). However, Stern does not disclose **means for loading searchable data into a billing data mart.** Singer teaches a logical server, which may be used to implement resource management and dynamically balance the loading of a plurality of physical data providing sources including data marts, data warehouses, legacy database, Web based information servers, (col. 3, lines 29-33) as step for **loading searchable data into a billing data mart.** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stern by including means for loading searchable data into a billing data mart as taught by Singer so the clients can obtain information in a faster manner.

As to claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Stern discloses the information component management system of the present invention is not limited to simple storage, searches and retrieval of textual data only, but instead preserves all aspects of the original source of information, (col. 8, lines 35-39). However, Stern does not disclose ***means for loading searchable data into a usage data mart***. Singer teaches a logical server, which may be used to implement resource management and dynamically balance the loading of a plurality of physical data providing sources including data marts, data warehouses, legacy database, Web based information servers, (col. 3, lines 29-33) as step for ***means for loading searchable data into a usage data mart***. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stern by including means for loading searchable data into a billing data mart as taught by Singer so the clients can obtain information in a faster manner.

As to claims 4, 9, 14, and 19, Stern discloses the information component management system of the present invention is not limited to simple storage, searches and retrieval of textual data only, but instead preserves all aspects of the original source of information, (col. 8, lines 35-39). However, Stern does not disclose ***means for creating summary tables of the billing data mart and usage data mart***. Singer teaches in FIG. 3, the logical server 26a may be composed of one or more virtual tables organized according to a plurality of business rules of an organization, and the distributed data warehouse system thereof. A virtual table appears to a client application as a standard database table having rows and columns, (col. 7, lines 8-31)

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as step for ***creating summary tables of the billing data mart and usage data mart.***

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stern by including creating summary tables of the billing data mart and usage data mart as taught by Singer so the clients can obtain information in a faster manner.

As to claims 5, 10, 15, and 20, Stern discloses the information component management system of the present invention is not limited to simple storage, searches and retrieval of textual data only; but instead preserves all aspects of the original source of information, (col. 8, lines 35-39). However, Stern does not disclose ***means for refreshing the billing data mart and usage data mart.*** Singer teaches in FIG. 4, a communication network 28 enables queries to be passed via a network interface circuit (NIC) 16c to a query server 26. Also coupled to the communication network 28 are one or more available data housing systems including data mart 20a, data warehouse 20b, and or legacy data base 20c. The method of the present invention certainly may be modified to employ several independent communication channels to increase throughput and enable simultaneous transfer, (col. 7, lines 32-49) as step of ***refreshing the billing data mart and usage data mart.*** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stern by including refreshing the billing data mart and usage data mart as taught by Singer so the clients can obtain new information.

Conclusion

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5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mayer et al. (US 6012057) shows high-speed data searching for information in a computer system.

Sassin et al. (US 6058435) shows apparatus and method for responding to multimedia communication based on content analysis.

Trader et al. (US 5832432) shows method for converting a text classified ad to a neutral sounding audio ad.

Contact Information

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5:00PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

07/8/03


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER